



Industrial Chemicals Division
12260 South Carondelet Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60633
(312) 933-8800

March 27, 1980

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Water Pollution Control
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield IL 62706

Subject: Notification NPDES Permit #IL0002640

Gentlemen:

At 0825 on March 25, 1980 an operational upset of the #5-6 gas dry tower resulted in an acid spill from the cooler vents into the cooler basin. This upset occurred during the shutdown of the unit to replace the existing lead cascade-type coolers with new Karbate^R tube and shell heat exchangers.

As soon as this upset was discovered, operational personnel immediately took steps to correct the condition. Simultaneously, the Works also initiated accelerated sampling at the Outfall 001.

The Permit limitation for pH at Outfall 001 is 5.0 - 10.0. The pH of the Outfall was at its lowest pH of 2.8 at 0825. By 0840, the pH returned to 6.6 but at 0855, another small overflow resulted in a pH of 4.3. By 0910 the pH had returned to 8.2 and no further upsets occurred.

Total duration of the leaks was less than 30 minutes. Total flow through the Outfall 001 resulted in approximately dilution of the acid of 2000 to 1. Impact upon the Calumet River is felt to be small in view of the amount of acid that entered the Outfall.

As mentioned above, the purpose of the equipment shutdown was to install new tube and shell heat exchangers. As part of this project, the process cooler vents will be relocated outside of the basin area. Any future reoccurrence of this type of overflow will spill into the plant's containment and neutralization system.

I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted herein; and based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe the submitted information is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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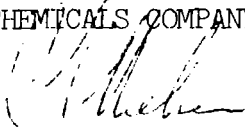
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If you have any questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

CHEMICALS COMPANY

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. T. Nielsen", is written over the typed name.

C. T. Nielsen
Plant Manager

JLH:er